



Measuring Transportation Investments: The Road to Results

Colorado is one of 19 states with mixed results in having the essential tools—goals, performance measures and data—needed to help decision makers choose more cost-effective transportation funding and policy options. It just missed earning the top distinction of “leading the way.”

Colorado is a leader in tracking information on whether its transportation system is advancing several key policy goals. For example, in the area of environmental stewardship, Colorado reported on the first-year impacts of the state’s Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program on transportation emissions and congestion levels. The state compiled data from its metropolitan planning organizations to show the benefits transportation projects can have on the environment. But Colorado has room for improvement in the area of access. The state aims to create “an integrated transportation system that focuses on moving people and goods by offering convenient linkages among modal choices.” But it does not track performance measures to show progress.

\$1.42 BILLION The state spent an estimated \$1.42 billion on transportation in fiscal year 2010.*

HOW IS THE STATE DOING?

Does it have the tools to ensure transportation spending and policy decisions are advancing six key goals?

- Leading the Way
- Mixed Results
- Trailing Behind

- SAFETY
- JOBS & COMMERCE
- MOBILITY
- ACCESS
- ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP
- INFRASTRUCTURE PRESERVATION
- OVERALL

*National Association of State Budget Officers State Expenditure Report 2010.

METHODOLOGY: States were given one of three ratings—leading the way, showing mixed results or trailing behind—based on whether they have the goals, performance measures and data needed to help decision makers ensure their surface transportation systems are advancing six key goals. The ratings are based on 10 criteria. Each state was rated for its performance in each of the six goal areas and given an overall rating.

SOURCES: Colorado Department of Transportation, “The Colorado Department of Transportation Congestion Mitigation & Air Quality Program 2007-2008 Report,” February 2010, 14, http://www.coloradodot.info/programs/commuterchoices/documents/CMAQ_2007_2008_AnnualReport.pdf; “Transportation Facts,” 2010, 5, <http://www.coloradodot.info/library/FactBook/FactBook10-2.pdf/view>. Sources accessed April 2011.